


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Schwartz  
Serial No. 09/815,978  
Filed: March 22, 2001  
For: *HYDRAZINE-BASED AND CARBONYL-  
BASED BIFUNCTIONAL CROSSLINKING  
REAGENTS*  
Art Unit: Unassigned  
Examiner: Unassigned

I hereby certify that this paper and the attached  
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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

05/11/01  
Date

  
Kelly Fischer

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-captioned patent application,  
please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows (a marked-up copy of the  
amended specification is attached to this Amendment):

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 10-17, with the following  
paragraph.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Methods to crosslink biomolecules such as proteins, oligonucleotides and  
carbohydrates to each other, to radioactive and non-radioactive metal chelates,  
to drugs and to surfaces have allowed development of both in vitro and in vivo  
diagnostic assays as well as in vivo therapies. A wide variety of methods have  
been developed and reviewed (Greg T. Hermanson, Bioconjugate Techniques,  
Academic Press).